

BOOK REVIEW

JOE C. TRUETT. 1996. **Circling Back: Chronicle of a Texas River Valley.** (ISBN 0877455317, pbk.). University of Iowa Press, 119 West Park Road, 100 Kuhl House, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1000, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.uiowapress.org, 800-621-2736, 800-621-8476 fax). \$19.95, 230 pp., photographs, 6" × 9".

Back home for the funeral of his grandfather in 1967, Joe C. Truett thought long and hard about the world of the Angelina River valley in East Texas that Corbett Graham had known and he himself had glimpsed. His vision resulted in this portrait of a place over time, its layers revealed by his love and care and curiosity. He celebrates his family's heritage and the unspoiled natural world of the Piney Woods without nostalgia.

The change in his valley led to him selecting a career in biology and to a desire to slow or prevent the kinds of environmental changes that he had witnessed. Much of his early career focused on research aimed at predicting and helping to alleviate adverse effects of man's activities on fish, wildlife, and habitats. Disillusionment built over time as he observed the ineffectiveness of conventional channels in preventing environmental degradation. He began to look for other channels that would be more effective. *Land of Bears and Honey* was one result of that search and *Circling Back* is a continuation of that search.

Part of the American Land and Life series, this book is well-thought out, lucid, and should be included in any public or college library. It includes a bibliography and thoughtfully selected illustrations.—Gary L. Jennings, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*